

## WOES OF THE PURSER

He Has Troubles of His Own on the Trip Across the Atlantic.

MUST HAVE A GOOD TEMPER.

His Time Wasted by Foolish Questions and Trivial Appeals, Mainly by Women Passengers, Yet He Has to Be Always Polite and Agreeable.

"Yes," said the purser on one of the big liners recently to the writer, who happened to be taking a trip from Liverpool to New York, "we have our own troubles, I can assure you, and I sometimes envy the captain his solitary enjoyment of the bridge, even during a sixty mile gale. Passengers seem to think that the purser is put on a ship simply to answer foolish questions.

"Of course there is a good deal which we have to put up with as being part of our legitimate duties, though when a passenger brings us a hundred dollar yellow back and asks to have it changed into English, French, German and Spanish money and stipulates that there must be twice as much French as German and half the remainder in English silver coins, presumably for tips, is it any wonder that we occasionally lose our tempers?

"And then, again, the purser is always appealed to for the most trivial things. A woman passenger comes to the window, and if it is closed she will hang on it till it is opened, no matter if the sign is there as large as life that the office hours are from 11 to 2 and 4 to 6 o'clock and she is honoring me with a call at 3 p. m. Then, when the window is raised for fear she will smash it to smithereens, she says, with a sweet smile: 'Oh, Mr. Purser, I am so sorry to disturb you. I know it is not your hour of business, but could you tell me if we will really land next Thursday, as I told my brother we would, and I know he will be waiting for me on the dock.'

"Of course I am polite, but I have some difficulty in persuading her that I am not running the ship, and neither can I control the elements. She goes away with an expression that clearly shows she thinks I am keeping something back and it will be my fault if we do not arrive at the time appointed.

"I remember on one trip when the weather was particularly stormy a woman passenger knocked at my door—after office hours, of course—and begged that she might speak to me for a few minutes. I politely asked her to enter, and then, her eyes starting out of her head with the excitement of suppressed emotion, she implored me to draw up her will. I protested that I was not a lawyer, but do you think she would be satisfied with that excuse? Not much! There and then I had to draw up a document in the best legal phraseology I could muster.

"When it was finished and I and my assistant had signed it she gave the young fellow a sovereign for his trouble, and as for me—well, she took off a very handsome ring and insisted on my accepting it. I have that ring yet, but what became of the donor I never knew, for when the storm abated and we were safe in port she never so much as bade me goodbye, though I had repeatedly asked her to take back her ring. She was a very rich woman evidently, and the 'bequests' in that will I drew up made my eyes bulge.

"Most passengers when we have been a day or so out bring the purser all their valuables, for which they receive a receipt. Some nervous women seem to think that a 'strong room' at sea is not a very secure place for their jewels, and they insist on seeing their treasures at least every day. One woman passenger made my life a burden during a recent voyage by taking her valuables out and putting them in again three times a day until I told her that the next time she called for them I would not take them back again, whereat she told me, with a sour look that I was impertinent and she would inform the captain. I believe she did so, but the captain gave her a word or two of advice regarding the implicit trust which should be placed in a purser, and this quieted her. In fact, she afterward came to me and apologized for her seeming rudeness.

"As a rule, I conduct church service on board, as the captain does not enjoy the work, but prefers to remain on the bridge. Many a funeral service also has fallen to my lot, and I have even officiated at a christening. I am usually the one to whom a passenger flies when he is dissatisfied with his cabin, though the duty of changing a stateroom really rests with the head steward. Then, again, it is the purser who is appealed to when the passengers elect to hold a concert, and the young folks usually rush to him also when they want to have a dance on deck. A purser can be very popular or the reverse, and unless you have an excellent temper you stand a good chance of being the reverse.

"The funniest experience I had was on a recent trip, when there was on board a little girl about twelve years

old. She struck up a warm friendship with me and would walk the deck for miles if I would only accompany her. She fell very ill during a storm and refused to be comforted. Her mother asked her if there was anything she could do which would ease her suffering, and the young imp said there was. If she would only 'skidoo' and let the purser read a book to her she would feel better. And the indulgent mother came to me, stated the case, and—well, I complied with her request and read to the child for a little while each day until she was well enough to come on deck again."—London Tit-Bits.

Wanted All Three Wishes.

An Irish legend has it that a good fairy once visited an old couple and promised them that any three wishes they would make would be granted. After racking their brains for some time in an endeavor to discover what they desired most the couple decided to visit the county fair to see if something there would suggest what they wanted. They did so, and, after rambling around all day and not seeing anything that exactly suited them, toward evening they found themselves before a display of kitchen utensils. Among them was a soup ladle, cheap, but likely to appeal to a woman, so the old woman in an absent moment said, "Oh, I wish I had one of those," and immediately she had it. The old man was so enraged because his wife had thoughtlessly thrown away one valuable wish that he retorted, "I wish that was stuck down your throat," and immediately this was done. Thereupon he was at once sorry at what he wished, and the only thing left to do was to wish the ladle out again. So all three wishes went for naught.

How Snakes Get Over Ground.

Although the snake appears to have no legs or feet, it may be said to be practically supplied with upward of a hundred pairs of them. In fact, each joint of the backbone bears a pair of ribs, which are mobile and have their points attached to the inner surface of one of the large transverse, platelike scales which clothe the undersurface of the body. Thus by the movements of the ribs attached to it each plate can be drawn forward and its margin applied to the ground. By the successive application of these multitudinous plates the body can be drawn forward in a straight line without its being thrown into undulations from side to side. But rapid movements are also effected by such undulations, and serpents can by pressure and appropriate muscular action climb trees and sometimes spring forward. They also swim easily by lateral flexures, but no serpents advance by vertical bendings of the body, though they are so often drawn in such an attitude.

Bolivia's Electrical Storms.

Owing to the peculiar topographical formation of Bolivia, electric and other phenomena are of constant occurrence, the principal zone where such disturbances take place being the Altiplanicie, or grand plateau. As the atmosphere is heavily charged with electricity both in summer and winter, dry or electric storms are of frequent occurrence both on the plateau and in the valleys. Before the rainy season sets in electrical accumulation becomes considerable on the plateau region, its most violent manifestations taking place toward the eastern section of the tablelands. An electrical storm in these regions is always a most imposing spectacle, as the tremendous force of the wind, almost equal to a hurricane, and the heavy electrical accumulation in the clouds produce terrible atmospheric explosions and violent detonations, while the surface of the ground sparkles and crackles.

Vacation by Think.

Make a compact with your soul to take a vacation and the way is simple. There are portions of your time over which you have control. Probably your evenings and your Sundays are your own. Set apart a month or so. Eliminate the self assigned tasks for those hours out of business and give yourself up to the pursuit of pleasure. Get others to join you. Call a vacation club. Adopt a real vacation spirit and go in for a good time. Resolve never to speak of work out of business hours, but to fill to the full that time which is your own with recreations which most appeal to you. Did you ever sing? Sing now. Did you ever paint? Paint now. Remember nature's gifts to you and find occasion to praise nature within as well as without.—Exchange.

He Got It Wrong.

A lady while going downstairs to dinner had the misfortune to step slightly on the dress of a lady in front of her. The man on whose arm the former was leaning said aloud, rudely, so that the couple in front might hear: "Always getting in the way, like Ba laam's ass."

Upon which the lady whose gown had been trodden on, turning round replied with a sweet smile:

"Pardon me! It was the angel who stood in the way and the ass which, smoke."—Tit-Bits.

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FULL LINE OF NEW GOODS....

AGENTS FOR

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See our samples. CLOSURE

Personal attention to all matters in this line. Mail and telegraph orders promptly attended to

Gainesville, Florida.

ABOUT ADVERTISING—NO. 1

## The Perambulating Showcase

By Herbert Kaufman.

The newspaper is a *huge* shop window, carried about the city and delivered daily into hundreds of thousands of homes, to be examined at the leisure of the reader. This shop window is unlike the actual plate glass showcase only in *one* respect—it makes display of descriptions instead of articles.

You have often been impressed by the difference between the decorations of two window-trimmers, each of whom employed the same materials for his work. The one drew your attention and held it by the grace and cleverness and art manifested in his display. The other realized so little of the possibilities in the materials placed at his disposal that unless some one called your attention to his bungling you would have gone on unconscious of its existence.

An advertiser must know that he gets his results in accordance with the *skill* exercised in preparing his verbal displays. He must make people *stop* and pause. *His copy has to stand out.*

He must not only make a show of things that are attractive to the eye but are attractive to the people's needs as well.

The window-trimmer must not make the mistake of thinking that the showiest stocks are the most salable. The advertiser must not make the mistake of thinking that the showiest words are the most clinching.

Windows are too few in number to be used with indiscretion. The good merchant puts those goods back of his plate glass which nine people out of ten will want after they have seen them.

The good advertiser tells about goods which nine readers out of ten will buy if they can be convinced.

Newspaper space itself is only the window, just as the showcase is but a frame for merchandise pictures. A window on a crowded street in the best neighborhood, where prosperous persons pass continually, is more desirable than one in a cheap, sparsely settled neighborhood. An advertisement in a newspaper with the most readers and the most prosperous ones possesses a great advantage over the same copy in a medium circulating among persons who possess less means. It would be foolish for a shop to build its window in the alley way—and just as much so to put its advertisement into newspapers which are distributed among "alley-dwellers."

(Copyright, 1909, by Herbert Kaufman, Chicago)

G. S. Merchant & Co.

Retailers and Jobbers in

Staple and Fancy Groceries

Grain, Garden Seed and Fertilizers

SOUTH SIDE SQUARE — GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.

Highest market price paid for Chickens, Eggs and other Produce

A Complete stock of Hay, Corn, Oats, Flour, Bran, Meal, Cotton Seed Meal and Rye. We handle only the Very Best goods at Lowest Prices, and guarantee satisfaction always.

THE DAILY SUN, 10c a Week